



September 18, 2014

## Spotlight: No Increase in State Employee 2015 Health Insurance Premiums

Public employees across the state will keep more of their pay-checks. The Kentucky Employees' Health Plan (KEHP) announced no premium increases for the upcoming health insurance plan year. Even though monthly premiums will not go up, employees and their families will enjoy the same plan designs and benefits.



Go to [personnel.ky.gov/Pages/healthinsurance.aspx](http://personnel.ky.gov/Pages/healthinsurance.aspx) for more information.

years, and they won't have to spend it on higher health care costs."

The response to the 2014 plan designs were well received by KEHP members, with more than 80 percent of plan members selecting an incentivized wellness health plan. The new plan designs initiated a dramatic increase with more than 52,000 new members (nearly 97,000 including dependents) choosing a consumer-driven health plan (CDHP) with a wellness component.

Through the first six months of 2014, medical and pharmacy claims are trending down 9 percent and net pay on claims dropped by 14 percent. The plan is saving nearly \$130 per member per month for each of the 256,000 state employees, school district employees, public retirees, and quasi-governmental group members, and dependents on the KEHP.

"For our hardworking state employees, this is well-deserved good news," said Gov. Steve Beshear. "Thanks to plan members' efforts to get healthier, the KEHP has created significant savings. On top of that, most public employees just received a cost-of-living raise for the first time in five

years, and they won't have to spend it on higher health care costs."

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## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Surplus Property Auctions

### Transportation Surplus Heavy Equipment

**Sept. 30, 2014**

Sept. 29: Preview 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.,  
Sept. 30: Registration begins 7 a.m.; Sale starts 9 a.m.  
1239 Wilkinson Blvd, Frankfort, KY

[Click here for Equipment Listing](#)

### State Fleet Auction

**Oct. 14, 2014**

Oct. 13: pre-register/inspect vehicles, 1:30-4 p.m.  
Oct. 14: pre-register/view vehicles, 8 -9:50 a.m.; Sale starts 10 a.m.

There are 290 runners and 14 non-runners. Payment due in full by close of business on auction day. A 7% buyers fee is applied to each winning bid. [Check here](#) for updates and listing.

## Free Gospel Music Event Sept. 21 at Governor's Mansion

*A Centennial Celebration Event*

An all star line up of gospel music favorites will be featured Sunday afternoon, Sept. 21, at the Governor's Mansion. The event, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., is free and open to the public.

Multi-talented and grammy nominated recording artist Kenny Bishop has assembled some of the top U.S. performers including:

**The Isaacs** — The top bluegrass and southern gospel group in the country, regularly featured on the Gaither Homecoming events.

**Larnelle Harris** — This incredible talent is a multi Grammy, Dove and Stellar Award winner.

**Beyond the Ashes** — From Nashville, one of the country's fastest rising Gospel singing male trios with a progressive southern gospel sound.

**The Sneed Family** — From Glasgow, KY, a popular family singing group winning recent industry and fan awards and gaining national attention.

**His Heart Quartet** — Male quartet from Berea performing four-part songs from the history of Southern Gospel music.



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## More State Surplus Computers in Four River County e-Learning Centers

This summer, Brian Kiser and the staff with the Office of Broadband Outreach and Development (OBOD), partnered with Murray State University to open eLearning Centers in Fulton, Hickman, Carlisle and Ballard counties.

The centers offer free public access to computers with broadband Internet service, which allow residents in these far west Kentucky counties to take advantage of all the benefits that come with broadband access. In all, 180 state surplus computers will be in 5 centers.

Eventually, centers will offer classes on topics ranging from basic computer use to job skills training.

The project is a partnership between Murray State University, the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, and the Commonwealth Office of Broadband Outreach and Development (OBOD).

MSU's office of regional outreach and office of telecommunication systems management were the contractors and worked with the three partners to get these centers up and running. MSU helped with human resource management, regional relationship building, site setup, administrative support and technical advising. The intent is for the communities to take over running the sites at the end of 2014.



Ribbon cutting at Barlow eLearning Center.  
Brian Kiser, OBOD, is fourth from left.

### Gospel Music, from page 1

Food truck vendors from Lexington and Louisville will be on-site offering numerous culinary choices. Seating in tent limited to 500 people, limited outdoor picnic tables will be available for general admission. Outdoor guests are invited to bring your own seating.

Registration is suggested. Go to <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/gospel-music-at-the-governors-mansion-tickets-12665620211?>

### Health Insurance, from page 1

Over the past two and a half years, the KEHP began offering wellness services through the newly branded LivingWell program and introduced a fully-integrated wellness program, HumanaVitality

In the 2014 plan year, two LivingWell Promise plans were introduced. Members who selected one of the plans agreed to complete the HumanaVitality online health assessment before May of the following year. The health assessment educates members on how their body is living younger or older than their actual age, based on lifestyle habits. The LivingWell Promise plans also rewarded members with access to the best plan options in the form of lower coinsurance, deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums. The members on the LivingWell plans are also in a better position to take action to get and stay healthy.

The enrollment period for the 2015 plan year will be held from Oct. 13-30, and offers the same benefits and plan designs as last year with several new vendors. As a self-insured plan, the KEHP remains in control of the plan designs and costs.

## Division of Forestry Taking Orders for Tree Seedlings

*Improve wildlife habitat, protect soil, reduce effects of heat*

With fall just around the corner, the Ky Div. of Forestry (KDF) encourages Kentuckians to plan their tree-planting activities now by ordering tree seedlings through KDF.

By placing your order now, you can select from more than 50 species of trees including white pine, bald cypress, black walnut, white oak, yellow-poplar, dogwood, redbud, pawpaw, hazelnut, pecan and many more. These bare-root seedlings can be used by private landowners and the public sector for reforestation, wildlife habitat development, erosion control, windbreaks and numerous other conservation projects.



If you want to make a difference but do not have a site to plant trees, consider becoming part of Kentucky's 20/20 Vision for Reforestation, which utilizes Kentucky's Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, along with other civic groups, to assist with the plantings. The goal to plant 20 million seedlings over the next 20 years, is currently the most ambitious tree planting project of its kind in the nation. In the spring of 2014 more than 440,000 seedlings were planted..

Seedlings can be shipped from January through April; they can be purchased in bundles of one, 10 or 100 and range in price from as little as 23 cents per tree to \$5 per tree, depending on the quantity ordered. Seedlings are available on a first-come, first-serve basis; therefore, it is advised to place orders as soon as possible. Order forms and contact information for placing orders are available online at <http://forestry.ky.gov>.